

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 724

By Wilder

A RESOLUTION to propose an amendment to Article VI, Section 14, of the Constitution of Tennessee.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That a majority of all the members of each house concurring, as shown by the yeas and nays entered on their journals, that it is proposed that Article VI of the Constitution of Tennessee be amended by deleting the language of Section 14, which has remained unchanged since 1796 and which reads in its entirety as follows:

Section 14. No fine shall be laid on any citizen of this state that shall exceed fifty dollars, unless it shall be assessed by a jury of his peers, who shall assess the fine at the time they find the fact, if they think the fine should be more than fifty dollars.

and by substituting instead the following language:

Section 14. In order to protect the rights of citizens from excessive fines imposed without the right to a jury trial, to promote public health and safety, and to ensure that state and local laws can be enforced, by law the General Assembly shall establish the maximum fine that may be assessed without the right to a jury trial; provided, however; such maximum fine shall not exceed five hundred dollars.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the foregoing amendment be referred to the One Hundred Sixth General Assembly and that this resolution proposing such amendment be published by the secretary of state in accordance with Article XI, Section 3, of the Constitution of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerk of the senate is directed to deliver a copy of this resolution to the secretary of state.